



Sunday, November 14, 2021

Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to Psalm 90

At first glance, this psalm seems very bleak and depressing. It has echoes of the book of Ecclesiastes where the realistic pictures of our lives as toilsome and short is only (seemingly) contrasted with pictures of temporary joy with family and enjoying the fruit of one's labor. These pictures are not very hopeful—at least not in any long-term sense.

However, this psalm points us clearly to the gospel of Jesus in that, for those who fear Him, for the penitent, at the end of our fleeting lives on this earth, we have the promise, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43). So, while our sins rightly provoke the anger and wrath of God, because Jesus died on the cross, our sins can be forgiven, and we can find eternal life with the eternal God.

Not only do we find eternal life after death, but our work now is given meaning and purpose through God. The prayer, “establish the work of our hands,” (v. 17) is essentially answered in Christ, as Paul reminds us in 1 Cor. 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” This is the conclusion of an entire chapter on the glory of the resurrection—that Christ has conquered death and those who fear Him will follow Him in putting off the perishable and putting on the imperishable.

Context

As Pastor Tim pointed out, Psalm 90 is at the beginning of Book 4 of the Psalms. This book is essentially a restatement that, despite the suffering of the people in the exile, the Lord still reigns, He has still been the dwelling place and refuge for His people, and He will ultimately bring them out and back into His presence once and for all (see the “Hallelujah” psalms: 146-150).

Discuss

- 1) What about Moses's life might help us understand the context of this psalm?
- 2) How does knowing that God is eternal and unchanging impact the way that we relate to him?
- 3) If you knew exactly how long you had left on this earth, how would that change the way you live?
- 4) How do you know if you fear God?
- 5) How does God give His people "satisfaction"?